

light and who protected our Native indigenous language.

For Native Hawaiians and so many other indigenous peoples, our language is essential for our people to live and thrive. In fact, we have an 'Olelo No'eau, a proverb, that says: "I ka 'olelo no ke ola; I ka 'olelo no ka make." "In the language rests life; in the language rests death."

Established in 1840, Hawaii's public education system is the oldest west of the Mississippi. In fact, in the 19th century, Hawaii was one of the most literate nations in the world, with over 90 percent of the population able to read and write.

January 17, 1893, is a date that is etched in the consciousness of almost every Hawaiian, the day the Hawaiian Kingdom was overthrown. At the time of the overthrow, our language was used in all sectors of society by all of the kingdom's citizens, from our homes and schools to businesses and government, and even the halls of justice.

In 1896, just 3 years after the overthrow, a law was enacted that stated: "The English language shall be the medium and basis of instruction in all public and private schools."

That one sentence dealt a smothering blow to our language. If you want to extinguish a people, you extinguish their language by taking it from the ears and mouths of future generations. You take it away from their children.

Piece by piece, action by action, the racist provisional and republic government and others with influence attempted to stem the flow of oxygen to our 'olelo Hawaii. But they could not extinguish our fire.

While Hawaiian was relegated to use in isolated spaces, even perhaps to whispers in private, we spoke, and we spoke in Hawaiian. We kept the embers burning for nearly a century.

How do you revive a language? The same way they tried to extinguish it. We share it with our children. Fire-keepers started private preschool language nests, or Punana Leo, and in 1978, Hawaiian became an official language of the State. But it would take 100 years to change that 1896 law banning Hawaiian in schools when, in 1986, K-12 Hawaiian language immersion was reestablished in Hawaii's Department of Education.

These early language pioneers continued to rebuild the fire, step by step, action by action. By the 1980s, we graduated our first bachelor's degrees in Hawaiian language. From less than 50 Native speakers under the age of 18 to more than 25,000 now self-identifying as Hawaiian language speakers today, our fire still burns, and it is growing.

It is no longer novel to hear Hawaiian spoken in our local coffee shops and our grocery stores, and my family proudly joins along fellow fire-keepers to stoke the 'olelo Hawaii flame, as my daughters attend Hawaiian language schools Punana Leo 'O Hilo and Ke Kula 'o Nawahiokalani'opu'u.

While I am filled with pride, Mr. Speaker, it comes with a mix of other

emotions: disappointment at underfunding; frustration at the lack of equity in government use of Hawaiian as an official language; and trepidation, knowing how close we came to having our language snuffed out.

While I am encouraged by our progress, I know there is more work ahead. We must continue to raise up the languages of all of America's first peoples.

UNESCO states that a third of the world languages have fewer than 1,000 speakers left. Language is essential to cultural diversity, and diversity is essential to our shared humanity.

While Mahina 'Olelo Hawaii, or our month of celebrating Hawaiian language, is coming to a close, we will continue to stoke the flames of 'olelo Hawaii month by month, year by year, generation to generation because, Mr. Speaker, "I ka 'olelo no ke ola; I ka 'olelo no ka make." "In the language rests life; in the language rests death," and our resolve is greater than ever to ensure that our languages will live on.

"E Ola Mau Ka 'Olelo Hawaii a me na 'Olelo 'O'iwi A Pau Loa." "The Hawaiian language, and all indigenous languages, shall live." Mahalo.

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REMEMBERING WILLIAM "WILL" HOWARD INGRAM II

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor a great Georgian and a great American, William "Will" Howard Ingram II of Richmond Hill, who tragically passed away at the age of 43.

Will lived a successful life and began his career in the military after remarkably receiving appointments to all three of the United States service academies. He was a 1999 graduate of West Point.

After he honorably served his country as an Army officer, Will went on to earn a graduate degree from the University of Washington. Following his Active Duty service, he went on to serve his country as an Army civilian for over 15 years.

During that time, he served as the chief of master planning for the Army's 3rd Infantry Division for several years before he took on responsibility as the chief of operation and maintenance at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield.

Among all of his many accomplishments, Will was most proud of his son, Gabe.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who knew him, during this most difficult time.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF CLYDE SMITH

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the longest-serving public servant in Bryan County and a great American. Longtime Bryan County Sheriff Clyde

Smith recently retired after more than 54 years in law enforcement.

Sheriff Smith's exceptional career was highlighted when he was presented with the key to the city of Richmond Hill by Mayor Russ Carpenter. The key to the city is the highest honor Richmond Hill can give, and it was presented in recognition of Sheriff Smith's honest and faithful service to the citizens of Richmond Hill and Bryan County.

Sheriff Smith began his career in law enforcement in Savannah, Georgia, and he positively impacted every resident and business owner there from the start. He is a man marked by his bravery and compassion, and he is the epitome of a dedicated public servant.

I would like to express my appreciation for the work Sheriff Smith did throughout his career, and I wish him the best as he begins his retirement.

HONORING BETTY MINER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Betty Miner of Richmond Hill, who, sadly, passed away at the age of 87.

Betty lived a remarkable life and touched countless lives. She was a lifelong resident of Richmond Hill and became the first woman council member for the city in 1971. Betty also served as mayor pro tem.

In addition to her work to lead and improve Richmond Hill, she served on the DNR board for the State of Georgia, for which she was instrumental in bringing the fisherman's co-op to Bryan County.

Through every position she had, she worked to better her community and every life she touched.

My thoughts and prayers go out to her family, friends, and all who knew her, during this most difficult time.

RECOGNIZING FORD AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ford Avenue Historic District in an officially designated area in the city of Richmond Hill.

After 2 years of planning, the Richmond Hill City Council approved an amendment to an ordinance creating the city's first historic district on January 5.

The Ford Avenue Historic District is at the heart of Richmond Hill's history and contains primary locations and buildings Ford Motor Company built between 1925 and 1947.

When Henry Ford came to Richmond Hill, the town was known as Ways Station. Upon his arrival, the town grew and become known as Richmond Hill. You can feel the history simply walking down the street.

Mr. Speaker, designating this remarkable historic district is just another positive effort by the city to promote, protect, and remember its roots. I am thankful for the Richmond Hill City Council's diligent work on this and everything they do.

DENOUNCING HATE CRIMES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from

New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly and fervently denounce hate crimes in any form anywhere in America.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, this country has witnessed a shocking rise in hate crimes against Asians and Asian Americans. Between the onset of the pandemic to the end of last year, there have been over 2,800 reported incidents of racism and discrimination against Asian Americans.

In New York City, an Asian woman was waiting in line at a bakery when she was brutally pushed to the ground, hitting her head. On the New York City subway, racial slurs have been uttered toward Asian riders and seniors have been physically attacked. In fact, in 2020, the NYPD reported that 10 percent of all bias attacks were targeted towards Asians. That is a ninefold increase over the incidents probed in 2019.

I am proud to represent New York City's Chinatown on the lower east side of Manhattan and Brooklyn's Chinatown around 8th Avenue in Sunset Park.

On February 12, I joined so many others in welcoming in the Lunar New Year, the Year of the Ox. But this year, a dark undercurrent and collective anxiety around the rise in violence dampened the celebrations.

It goes without saying that my constituents and every one of our constituents ought to be able to go to work, walk to the grocery store, or ride public transportation without fear of a bigoted and even dangerous attack.

Mr. Speaker, this is not who we are as a nation. We do not let xenophobia, racism, and violence run rampant on our streets, in our cities, in our hearts. No. We take pride in our diversity. We understand that what brings us together is far greater than what divides us. And we need to bring justice to all the victims of these heinous crimes.

I am glad that in New York City, our mayor has created the Asian Hate Crime Task Force, and I encourage other cities and localities to take similar action.

We also need a sustained Federal presence to combat and prevent hate crimes. That is why in the past I have introduced legislation to allocate \$50 million in Federal funds to help prevent, track, and prosecute hate crimes and assist victims. I look forward to reintroducing this bill.

I was also proud to cosponsor my colleague, Representative GRACE MENG's, resolution to denounce the anti-Asian sentiment that has occurred since the outbreak of the coronavirus.

Every one of us, everyone, has a responsibility to condemn and speak out against these attacks.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COMMANDER MICHAEL J. HALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of Lieutenant Commander Michael J. Hall to his community, country, and the fight against COVID-19.

Service to one's country is rarely convenient, particularly not for a father of four with a thriving orthopedic surgery practice. Yet, in September 2019, Dr. Hall overcame adversity to join the Navy Reserve at the age of 48.

Earlier that year, one of Mike's boys showed interest in joining the Navy. A concerned father, Dr. Hall wanted to speak directly to the recruiter. By the end of the call, he inquired about joining himself.

Just 6 months after his commissioning, Dr. Hall was given 36 hours' notice to voluntarily deploy to hard-hit New York City, wearing the only uniform he had without having even completed his basic officer training.

While many of us were scrambling to buy toilet paper, Dr. Hall fought an unknown virus in a makeshift ICU unit with dozens of intubated patients.

Now a seasoned veteran of this pandemic with a deployment under his belt, Dr. Hall is finally attending his basic officer training. No amount of instruction can teach the qualities that Mike Hall already personifies: honor, courage, and commitment, not when it was convenient, but when it mattered most.

Inspired by his father, Mike's son has now also joined the military, building on a new family vision formed in a makeshift ICU ward during a very dark spring in New York City.

Dr. Hall, I thank you for your service, and Mrs. Hall, I thank you even more for your service. You have made Ogden proud.

RESCUE AMERICANS NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the American Rescue Plan. This past January marked 1 year since the first case of coronavirus was found in the United States. In my home State of Alabama, nearly 10,000 people have contracted COVID-19 and almost 9,000 have died, and over half a million of the workers have filed for unemployment.

We know that the effects of this pandemic have disproportionately impacted our communities of color and low-income workers, who are more likely to be frontline workers and less likely to be able to afford access to quality healthcare.

Thankfully, because of the leadership of the new Biden administration, we recently witnessed a record drop in COVID cases and hospitalizations in Alabama; and with over 815,000 vaccine doses administered in our State, hope is finally on the horizon.

That said, we have a long way to go before there are enough of the vaccines

available to our communities to be really safe from the virus.

As this pandemic continues, I know Alabama families are struggling to make ends meet.

The time for decisive action is now. I strongly support the American Rescue Plan because it will not only crush the virus, but also help us to get back to schools safely, as well as to provide emergency financial support to struggling families and small businesses.

First, the President's American Rescue Plan will create a national vaccination program that will make sure that underrepresented communities are not left behind. The bill also ramps up testing and contact tracing, increases the supply of critically needed PPE, and makes healthcare more accessible by enhancing the Advanced Premium Tax Credit.

That was so important to so many Americans who could not afford otherwise to purchase quality healthcare coverage. This is critical in a non-Medicaid expansion State like Alabama, where people have fewer available healthcare coverage options.

Secondly, the American Rescue Plan delivers immediate financial relief to working families. This bill would provide critically needed \$1,400 economic assistance checks to individuals so we can help families recover and cover the costs of necessary expenses, like childcare, groceries, rent, utilities, and so much more.

I also fought to ensure that the unemployment insurance was extended and expanded to \$400 a week from \$300 a week. This is so important. When we think about the fierce urgency of now, we know that the unemployment, the Federal pandemic unemployment insurance benefits will actually expire March 14 if we do not act. That is why it is so incredibly important that we here in Congress do our part.

I also worked with my colleagues in the Ways and Means Committee to ensure that the American Rescue Plan includes important provisions for our most vulnerable families. I am proud that the package includes an additional \$7.6 million in childcare funding for the State of Alabama, which will help our frontline and hourly workers, who have been our true heroes in this pandemic.

Furthermore, the package provides over \$10 million for Alabama through a TANF pandemic emergency fund so that families with necessary emergency needs get the essentials that are so necessary for their survival.

I am especially proud this bill will also include lifesaving expansion to child tax credit and earned income tax credit, and I have championed that for many years. In my district alone, 53 percent of the children do not receive the full benefits of this credit because it is not fully refundable. We will make it fully refundable and we will expand it, lifting millions of children out of poverty.